

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 remain at issue.

#### **I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650). Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650), and further in view of Takezawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,265). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first coding technique and the second coding technique are audio coding techniques. Garcia, et al. neither discloses nor suggests these limitations. Thus, Garcia, et al. does not disclose or suggest generating protection information for protecting the storage area of a recording medium storing a second string of codes recorded by a second audio coding technique from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first audio coding technique and refer to the first management data stored in a first management area, as required by claim 1, and it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the protection information indicate that the protection mode of the track on the medium is prohibited from rewriting, as taught by Nakashima et al., combined with the method/apparatus of Garcia et al. to derive claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are also allowable over Garcia et al. in view of


Nakashima et al. and/or Takezawa. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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